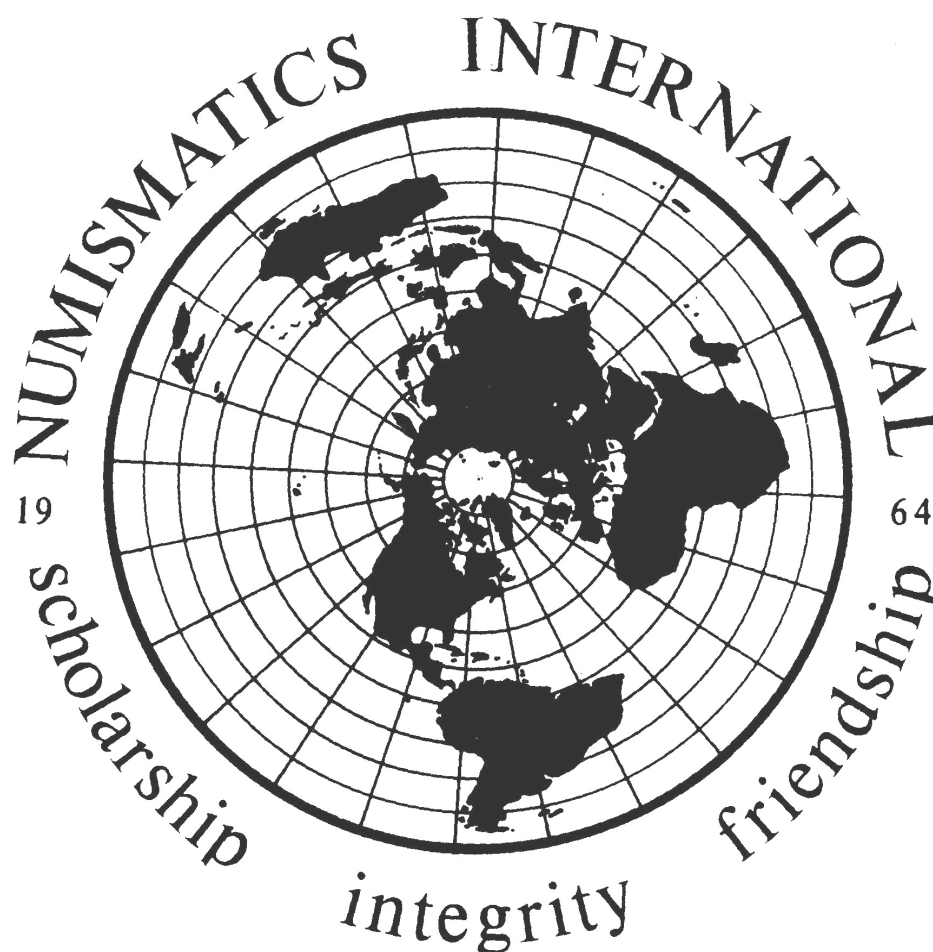


# NI Bulletin

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## Letter to the Editor

John Kallman writes "I read with great interest the article on Military Unit Coins by Francis J. Gerner in the (May 2006) NI Bulletin. In the article he makes mention that there are no known items which were issued during the Korean War. While not a typical issue, there is one series of items that were issued from 1951-1955 by the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division." (John supplied information on the issue and is found beginning on page 205 of this edition of the Bulletin—ed.)

## Additions and Corrections

### To Volume 41 No. 8, August 2006.

On page 169 in the article about Abd Al Halem Hafez the fifth coin mentioned (no illustration) is not commemorating the singer Abdel Halim Hafez (1929-1977) but rather Hafiz Ibrahim (1871-1932), the Poet of the Nile. See Egypt, S#598-601 and S#266, respectively. Thanks to member Gerhard Schoen for the information.

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**Lion of Megiddo**  
**Simcha Kuritzky NI #LM108**



**Israel 5 Lir, 30mm (image Bob Reis)**

Modern Israel's trade coinage uses designs millennia old. The prohibition against idolatry has resulted in most coins portraying Temple vessels or plants. The only animal portrayed on trade coins was the lion on the cupronickel five lirot (pounds) and equivalent half sheqel. The roaring lion with curved tail held high was based on a jasper seal found at Megiddo in 1904 and subsequently lost in Constantinople (but not before copies were made). The seal includes the words in Paleo-Hebrew "of Shema, servant of Yereboam." Yereboam II ruled Israel from about 790-750 BC. He briefly united the northern kingdom with Judea through conquest, hence the use of a Judean symbol (in Genesis, Israel's blessing of his son Judah describes him as a lion). The name "Shema" means "to hear," and is the root of the name Ishmael.

The coin design itself has a rather long history. The Bank of Israel introduced their second series of notes in 1958, portraying workers on the front and archaeological artifacts on the back. The five pound note had a Yemenite laborer with hammer paired with the Seal of Shema. This note was issued for a decade. The Bank introduced the fourth series of notes in the mid-1970s, each showing one of Jerusalem's gates on the back. Was it merely coincidence that the five pound showed the Lions Gate? In 1978, inflation forced the Bank of Israel to replace the note with a large coin, and the Lion of Megiddo was returned to use, the only design to transfer from a banknote to a non-commemorative trade coin. The lion design survived the transition to the sheqel coinage in 1980 (with ten lirot to the sheqel), but inflation caused coinage of the half sheqel coins to cease in 1984, a year before Israel introduced the new sheqel. The Bank of Israel gave the design a special send off, the only souvenir sheet Israel has issued. The sheet is engraved with the 1950s banknote along with pictures of the two coins, all showing the lion side.

The lion of Megiddo design survives today only on the Megiddo medals of the Holy Sites series, which were first issued in 1990.

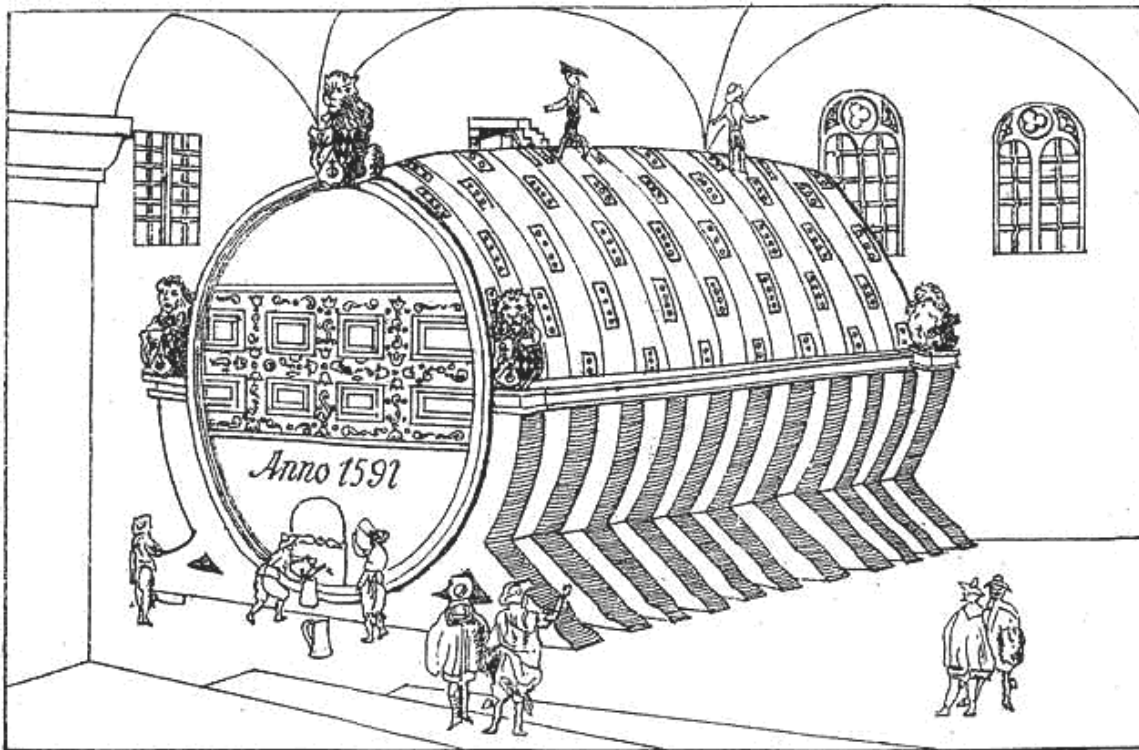




## The Big Barrel

Herman Blanton NI #LM115

The world's largest wine cask, the Heidelberg Tun, is today and apparently has been a tourist attraction for four centuries. There have been four tuns, built or rebuilt, in 1591, 1664, 1728 and 1751, each housed in the cellar of Heidelberg Castle, in Heidelberg, Germany. The current tun is reported to have taken 130 oak trees in its construction and has a volumetric capacity of 220,017 liters (58,124 gallons), which should be enough to satisfy even the largest thirst.



Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bild:Heidelberg\\_Castle\\_Wine\\_Barrel.jpg](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bild:Heidelberg_Castle_Wine_Barrel.jpg)

Reformation era pastor Anton Praetorius (1560-1613) wrote the earliest surviving description of the tun. He described the tun in his poem *Das Heidelbergense*, written shortly after seeing it first hand in 1594.

In the UBS Auction of 5 September 2006 there were several medals related to the Heidelberg Tun, which is what sparked this brief article. When I first saw the medals I became interested because the tun resembled some kind of machine, perhaps a boiler for steam. Since the medals were dated 1664-1667 (though some in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) I looked closer. It turned out to be a wine cask instead of a machine, but still I could not resist the temptation to write it up. Even Mark Twain wrote a description of it, which I quote at the end of this article.

The following medal images are from UBS Auction 65 and used with permission.



**UBS Auction 65 lot 267 (image reduced to 85% actual size)**

Large octagonal silver medal 1667 by Johann Linck. **Obverse:** Heidelberg Castle with inscription around *ARCIS PALATINAE HAEC IMAGO EST ET SITVS QVAM VINDICANT GRADIVVS ET PALLAS SIBI*, in banner over the castle *DOMINVS PROVIDEB-IT* and at bottom *ANNO / 1667* and *IL* (for Johann Linck) **Reverse:** The giant tun (barrel) with inscription around *IMAGINEM VIDES PALATINI CADI QVO MAIOR HAVD VLLVS NEC EXPOLITIOR*. Mass 63.59g.

Another beautiful medal in the same sale featured Charles I Louis Elector Palatine (1617 1680) and his son Charles (II).



**UBS Auction 65 lot 264**

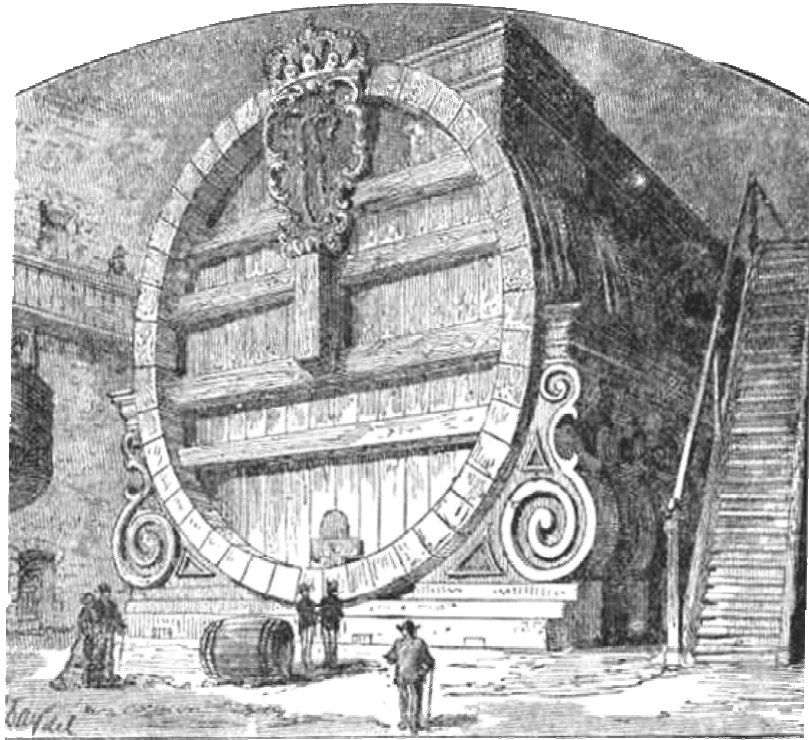
Oval silver medal of 1666 by Johann Linck. **Obverse:** Charles I Louis with inscription around *CAR. LVD. D. G. COM. PAL. RHEN. ELECT. B. D.* **Reverse:** *16 CAROLVS. D. G. COM. PAL. RHEN. E. P. H. D. B. 66.* Mass 24.52 g.

Charles I Louis is credited for the 1664 tun.

Extract from Mark Twain's *A Tramp Abroad* published in 1880.

For a change, when you wanted one, you could stroll to the Castle, and burrow among its dungeons, or climb about its ruined towers, or visit its interior shows—the great Heidelberg Tun, for instance. Everybody has heard of the great Heidelberg Tun, and most people have seen it, no doubt. It is a wine-cask as big as a cottage, and some traditions say it holds eighteen thousand bottles, and other traditions say it holds eighteen hundred million barrels. I think it likely that one of these statements is a mistake, and the other is a lie. However, the mere matter of capacity is a thing of no sort of consequence, since the cask is empty, and indeed has always been empty, history says. An empty cask the size of a cathedral could excite but little emotion in me.

I do not see any wisdom in building a monster cask to hoard up emptiness in, when you can get a better quality, outside, any day, free of expense. What could this cask have been built for? The more one studies over that, the more uncertain and unhappy he becomes. Some historians say that thirty couples, some say thirty thousand couples, can dance on the head of this



cask at the same time. Even this does not seem to me to account for the building of it. It does not even throw light on it. A profound and scholarly Englishman—a specialist—who had made the great Heidelberg Tun his sole study for fifteen years, told me he had at last satisfied himself that the ancients built it to make German cream in. He said that the average German cow yielded from one to two and half teaspoons of milk, when she was not worked in the plow or the hay-wagon more than eighteen or nineteen hours a day. This milk was very sweet and good, and a beautiful transparent bluish tint; but in order to get cream from it in the most economical way, a peculiar process was necessary. Now he believed that the habit of the ancients was to collect several milkings in a teacup, pour it into the Great Tun, fill up with water, and then skim off the cream from time to time as the needs of the German Empire demanded.

*NI*

## 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry "Buffalo" Token

### John Kallman NI #2189

In September 1950, the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was deployed from Japan and made an amphibious landing at Inchon, Korea. It took part in the capture of Seoul and was the only American unit to reach the Yalu River in the northern part of Korea. When the Chinese intervened in the war, in October 1950, the regiment was cut off and had to be evacuated on the eastern coast at Hungnaw.

The list below is from *Military Tokens and Chits of Korea* by John K. Kallman. The underlined references are from *Military Club Tokens Volume 2 (overseas Locations)* by Paul A. Cunningham. Reference numbers without underline are from the series of books on military club tokens by James J. Curto. Type 1 shield has buffalo at bottom. Type 2 shield has five pointed device at bottom of shield. When shield type is unknown, it is listed simply as "shield." The tokens are known brass or plated over brass.

	<b>1812</b> (buffalo – no hole)		
R -5	17 TH INF REGT / KOREA	brass	21mm
R -10	17 TH INF REGT / KOREA	brass	18mm
<u>KR270</u>	<b>1812</b> (buffalo – holed, as made)		
R188A	1950 1958 / 1 ST BG 17 TH INF (on shield) / KOREA	brass	21mm
R188B	1950 1959 / 1 ST BG 17 TH INF (on shield) / KOREA	brass	21mm
<u>R188C</u>	1950 1961 / 1 ST BG 17 TH INF (on shield) / KOREA	brass	21mm
R188BV	1950 1961 / 1 ST BG 17 TH INF (on shield) / KOREA	plated	21mm
<u>KR290</u>	<b>1812</b> (buffalo – holed, as made)		
R185	17 TH INF (on shield) / KOREA	plated	21mm
R185A	1950 1951 / 17 TH INF (on shield) / KOREA	plated	21mm
R185B	1950 1951 / 17 TH INF (on shield) / KOREA	plated	21mm
R187	1950 1953 / 17 TH INF (on type 2 shield) / KOREA	plated	21mm
R187B	1950 1954 / 17 TH INF (on shield) / KOREA	plated	21mm
R186	1950 1955 / 17 TH INF (on type 2 shield) / KOREA	plated	21mm

Note: Other dates may exist

With permission of the author, Ray Bows, here is a short account of the "buffalo nickels" taken from his article "The 'Buffalo Nickel' of the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment," published in the *Token and Medal Society Journal* volume 11, Number 2, April 1971.

When the 17<sup>th</sup> went into training in Taegu, the new regimental commander, Colonel William (Buffalo Bill) Quinn inspired the unit's present nickname "The Buffalo's." Proud of its nickname the regiment issued members a "Buffalo Nickel."

The Buffalo Nickels were issued from 1951 to 1955 and bear the date 1950 plus the date of issue on the obverse. In 1951 and 1952 the nickels bore the regimental insignia consisting of a blue shield bearing a white cross that was the badge of the V Army Corps under which the regiment served during the Civil War. Below the wall is a five bastion fort which was the badge of the V Corps

in Cuba, awarded to the unit for its participation in the battle at Santiago. 17<sup>th</sup> INF is superimposed on the shield and the word KOREA appears below.

The regiment claimed that their nickel was "the only nickel in the world worth 11 cents" which is what the manufacturers in Japan charged them for each piece. In 1953 the regiment was awarded the buffalo symbol for service in Korea on its regimental insignia. Nickels issued in 1953 and 1954 bear the new insignia. For some unexplainable reason the old insignia appears on the nickel issued in 1955. Although 1955 was the last regular issue, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle Group of the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry issued a nickel for one year in 1959 in the old tradition. It bears the new insignia and 1<sup>st</sup> Battle Group 17<sup>th</sup> INF.



**Buffalo at bottom of shield (image John Kallman)**



**Five pointed device at bottom of shield (image Roamin' Roman, Inc.)**

*NI*

**Significance of the Design**  
**Austria Double Thaler of 1857**  
**Herman Blanton NI #LM115**

Minted in Vienna under authority of the Austrian Habsburg government in 1857, this coin tells an interesting story, actually more than one story. It tells stories of business, politics, revolution, engineering and transportation. Ostensibly it commemorates the official opening of the Vienna-Trieste Railway, an engineering feat of the industrial age.



**Austria, 2 Association Thalers, 1857 (Aureo Subastas Numismaticas)**

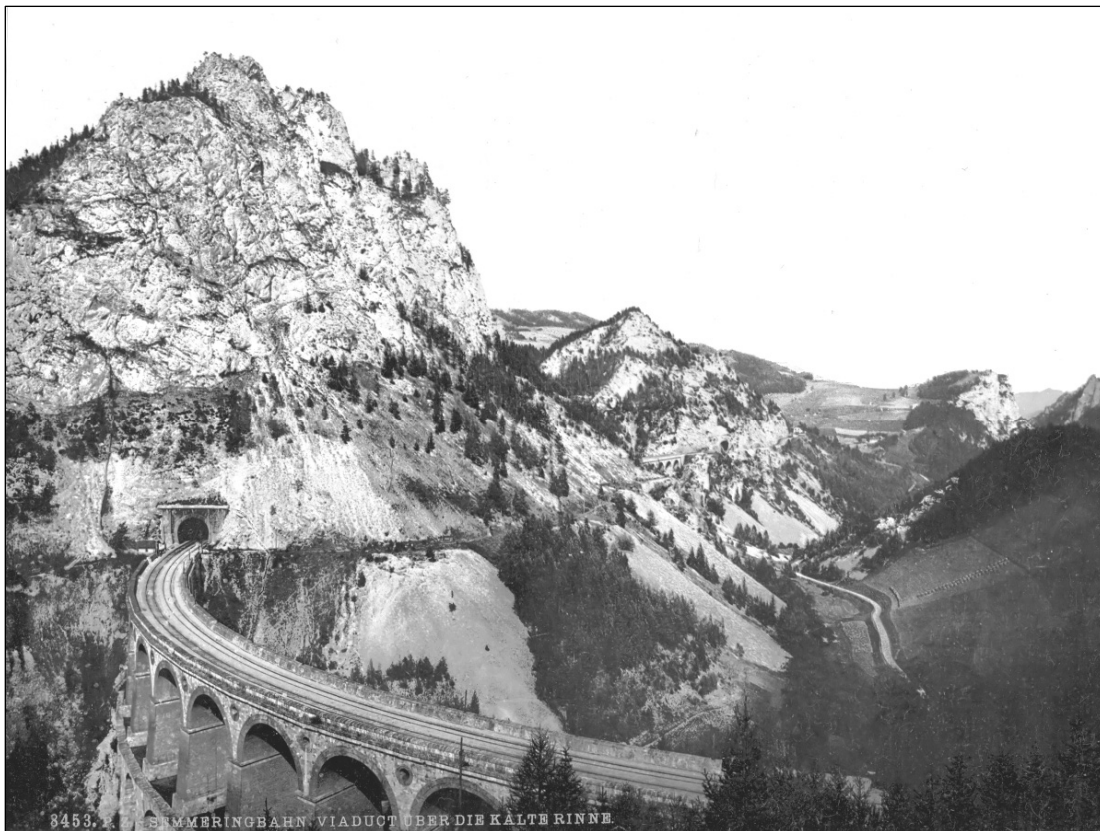
**Obverse:** Emperor Franz Joseph facing right wearing laurel wreath. Legend around FRANZ JOSEPH I · V · G · G · KAISER V · OESTERREICH. Below initials C.R. for engraver Carl Radnitzky and mint mark A for Vienna. **Reverse:** Railway locomotive left and steamship right of lighthouse in center. Legend around VOLLENDUNG DER OESTERREICHISCHEN SÜDBAHN 1857. 2 VEREINS THALER. Silver, 41mm diameter, 37g mass.

The business aspect of the coin is reflected in two views, the coin denomination and trade. Austrian access to the Adriatic Sea was through Trieste (today in Italy). At the time of the railway project the Habsburgs also controlled Venice, but that was even further from Vienna than Trieste. For international trade a railway to Trieste was desirable when compared with horse cartage or to Danube river traffic through the Black Sea into Ottoman territory. The denomination of this coin is not merely 2 thalers, it is 2 *VEREINS THALER* which translates "2 Association Thalers" or "2 Convention Thalers." To facilitate trade the German speaking regions of Europe attempted a common currency through the Austro-German Monetary Convention which Austria joined in January 1857. Per this "association" the silver thaler of the North German Confederation was equal to 1.5 Austrian florins, making the subject coin simultaneously "2 Association Thalers" and "3 Austrian Florins." Ten years later, in 1867, Austria withdrew from the German Monetary Union.

From the political perspective the coin has a story but **scarcely tells it**, a story of imperial changes occurring around mid century. In 1848 there were widespread revolutions across Europe. The Austrian Empire was deeply affected, with one outcome being the abdication of Ferdinand and the coronation of Franz Joseph, at the

age of only 18. In the aftermath of the revolution the new emperor worked to reassert imperial authority over his dominions, experiencing mixed success. The Magyar population denied the new emperor because he refused to acknowledge the Hungarian constitution. At the conclusion of the Austro-Prussian war in 1866 Austria lost influence among the German states and saw the advantage of settling the issue with Hungary. Franz Joseph affirmed the constitution in 1866 and formed the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1867.

From the technical and engineering perspective the coins tells of the completion and opening of the railway, connecting the imperial capital Vienna with the Adriatic seaport Trieste. The reverse side of the coin has a railway locomotive and steamship separated by a lighthouse with ocean waves below.



Library of Congress

### **Semmering Railway over the Kalte Rinne valley, circa 1900**

Instead of building the railway around the Alps they chose to go through the Semmering pass which required numerous viaducts and tunnels as well as new larger locomotives to climb the grade through the mountains. Designed by Carl Ritter von Ghega it is considered the world's first mountain railway. Today the Semmering Railway is still in operation and classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

*NI*



**The Durango Mint Pattern 8 Reales of 1840**  
**Kent Ponterio, Ponterio & Associates NI #1221**



**Mexico, Durango Mint 1840-OMC Pattern 8 Reales**  
**Nickel plated copper, grained edge reeding.**  
**Specific gravity of 8.83. KM-Pn57; BH-Pn48.**

The Republic of Mexico produced "cap & ray" 8 Reales at fourteen different mints from 1823-1897. The mint located in Mexico City served as the primary mint for the central government. A regulation was in place that the remaining thirteen mints were required to obtain specific minting equipment such as dies and matrices directly from the Mexico City mint. For this reason, stylistically the coins struck by the various mints were intended to be virtually identical with the exception of mint marks and assayer's letters, however this was not always the case and at times they tended to vary greatly.

For numerous reasons several of the branch mints acquired dies and or hubs from sources other than the Mexico City mint. European firms such as the Soho mint in Birmingham England, among others were able to supply the Mexican branch mints with desperately needed items such as coining dies at a significantly cheaper cost and often with a quicker turn around rate than that of the Mexico City mint.

Although the origin of manufacture for certain die styles is known, for several it is not. Dies manufactured from sources other than the Mexico City mint were considered contraband and therefore illegal. For this reason it is unlikely any of the Mexican branch mints kept actual mint records that point to the origin of their manufacture.

The Durango Mint Pattern 8 Reales of 1840 has been subject to several theories as to where it may have originated. Examining the characteristics of this coin can however help point us in a better direction.

1. The coin has a specific gravity of 8.83 which makes it nickel plated copper rather than base metal silver or German silver as previously thought. Normally found with varying degrees of flat strike most likely due to the amount of pressure needed when striking hard metals such as nickel.

2. The coin is struck with a steam press rather than with a screw press and bears reeded edge rather than a milled edge.

The letters "O.M.C." in place of the assayer's initials could possibly represent "Oeschger Mesdach & Co." also known as "Eschger, Ghesquiere & Co." This firm had offices in France, as well as other countries in Europe and produced coins for various countries. Forrer cites "Flans et pieces de monnaies de nickel, de cuirvre et de bronze fabriques par MM. Oeschger, Mezdach et Cie" in his "Biographical Dictionary of Medallists." The metal, style and method of which this pattern was produced along with the placement of "O.M.C." in the legend would suggest that this is the firm responsible for its manufacture.

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### **Terms Used in Coinage** **Christopher Carson NI #2636**

#### **Gold (Au)**

Gold, element atomic number 79, is a rare metal generally found in the native state with a specific gravity of 19.3. This soft yellow metal has been highly valued from the earliest ages by almost every people, although the Maoris of New Zealand were something of an exception: knowing no metals other than gold, they preferred the stone jade, because it could be made into tools. Gold compacts a very large value into a very little space; it is not affected by corrosion, and cannot be dissolved by any common substance except a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids which is therefore called aqua regia; it is easily separated from an alloy with other metals; it is so ductile that that it can be drawn to a wire thinner than a human hair, and so malleable that it can be beaten out by hand to a sheet atoms thick. For all these reasons, gold has been used from the earliest ages for settling debts and for hoarding, and the value of other items has often been estimated in gold. Fulfilling the functions of medium of exchange, store of value, and standard of value, gold became money. Along with silver in a naturally-occurring alloy called electrum, gold was the material of that primordial coinage, the Lydian stater; and despite restrictions, meltings, recoinages, embargoes, controls, and every other kind of interference gold has maintained a place in the coinages of the world and in the commerce of the world to this very day.

## 8 Reales of the Republic of Mexico (Part 1)

Kent Ponterio, Ponterio & Associates NI #1221

### Alamos



**8 Reales 1869-DL mint mark A**

The city of Alamos was originally settled by ranchers and Spanish missionaries in the early 1600s. It is located in the state of Sonora and was founded in 1681. Shortly after this, the discovery of precious metal ores in the region transformed the city into a mining community. Although gold and other metals were mined, the region mainly yielded high purity silver. The mint in the city of Alamos struck 8 Reales continuously from 1864-1895. Unlike many of the other mints, the production of 8 Reales remained uninterrupted by the striking of balance scale Pesos. Although Buttrey states that a pair of balance scale Peso matrices were present during an 1876 inventory of the mint, they apparently were never used. The most probable reason for this mint not striking balance scale Pesos is that it was under state, not federal jurisdiction. Subsequently the state leased the mint to private individuals and companies during most of its existence. The mint ceased operations and closed in 1895, the mint building later became a federal assay office. The overall quality of the 8 Reales produced at this mint is quite good. Coins are generally well struck and from good quality dies (with a few exceptions). The mint acquired state-of-the-art steam powered minting machinery in the early 1870s, from which it produced exceptional quality coins. The majority of 8 Reales produced at this mint in the 1860s and early to mid 1870s were exported to the orient and as a result most known examples of these coins exist with small chopmarks.

### Real de Catorce



**8 Reales 1863-ML mint mark C<sup>E</sup>**

The city of Real de Catorce is located in rugged mountain terrain in the north of the state of San Luis Potosi. Founding of the city took place in the late 1700s as a result of the discovery of large silver deposits in the region. It is said to have once been the second richest source of silver in Mexico, the city's economy was centered around the mining industry. Authorization to establish a mint was granted on February 12, 1861 by Mexican president Benito Juarez and coinage production began in May of 1863. The three story mint building is still in existence and can be visited within the city. It is said that the mint building is haunted by the ghost of Jorge Santos de la Maza (mint owner/lessee, 1861-1869), who is sometimes seen roaming the halls of the Casa de la Moneda while counting his hoard of silver coins. This mint was short lived in comparison to the other Mexican mints. All 8 Reales of this mint bear the date of 1863, although data exists which confirms them being struck up until the year 1869.

### **Culiacan**



**8 Reales 1861-PV/E mint mark C**

Culiacan is the capital city of the Mexican state of Sinaloa and is one of Mexico's oldest cities. It was originally founded in 1531 by Nuño Beltran de Guzmán and used as a base for Spanish exploration of Northern Mexico. The mint was established and began striking coins in 1846. Initially an offshoot of the Guadalupe y Calvo mint, it was originally operated by Compañía Minera de Guadalupe y Calvo. Control of the mint changed several times from government to private hands. It is interesting to note that the only time period where unofficial dies were used to strike coins was while the mint was under government control. The mint struck 8 Reales continually from 1846 to 1870 at which point it began striking balance scale Pesos. In 1873 the minting of 8 Reales resumed and continued until 1897, when it was eventually phased out by the Cap & Ray Peso the following year.

### **Chihuahua**

The city of Chihuahua is centrally located in the state of Chihuahua which is the largest of the Mexican states. The name Chihuahua derives from the Nahuatl language meaning "dry sandy place," rightfully named for the region's desert climate. Like many of the other Mexican cities containing mints, the surrounding area of Chihuahua contains numerous silver mines. The mint first began striking Republic 8 Reales in 1831 and did so continually until 1871 when they were replaced by the short lived Balance Scale Pesos. In 1873 the production of 8 Reales resumed and continued until the mint closed in 1895. During its first decade of operations the mint

produced several interesting die styles unique to Chihuahua. The early die styles were eventually replaced in 1840 by English manufactured dies produced at the Soho mint. This die style remained in use until 1868; it was then replaced by the Mexico City die style which continued until the mint closed in 1895.



**8 Reales 1833-MR mint mark C<sup>A</sup>  
Pre 1840 die**



**8 Reales 1853(5/4)-RG mint mark C<sup>A</sup>  
Soho die**



**8 Reales 1871-MM mint mark C<sup>A</sup>  
Mexico City die**

## Durango



**8 Reales 1848-CM. mint mark D<sup>O</sup>. "B" and "Y" in rays, Reverse "B" below waves on left side, "Y" on eagle's leg.**

Durango is the capital city of the Mexican state of Durango. It was originally founded in 1562, this is the fourth largest of the Mexican states. A mint was first established in this city by royalist forces during Mexico's War for Independence in 1811. Durango became a state in 1823 shortly after Mexico gained its independence. The mint in the capital city began striking coins of the Republic the following year in 1824. It was one of only three mints to strike the early profile eagle or "hookneck" coinage. The mint struck 8 Reales every year from 1824 to 1870 until they were replaced by the balance scale Pesos. The production of 8 Reales resumed in 1873 and continued until the mint closed in 1895. The 8 Reales of this series offer collectors a seemingly endless assortment of over-dates, over-assayers, hidden die marks and varieties.

Beginning in 1848 and continuing into the first die style of 1849, the letters "B," "G," "S" & "Y" are punched into the dies in subtle locations. Through 1847 there was a problem with 8 Reales of debased silver produced at the Durango mint. When a government investigation began, lease holder Carlos Stahlkuecht transferred the lease to Bernardo Georgy. These "hidden" letters were punched into the dies so that Georgy could identify coins produced during his tenure in the event that these coins ever came into question. This was a direct violation of government regulations and as a result, Georgy lost his lease in 1849.

This series to be continued.

*NI*

**Quebec Taken Medal**  
**Commemorating Capture of Quebec in 1759**  
**Roger deWardt Lane NI #815**



**Obverse:** Bust of Britannia left, laurel wreath over crossed trident and standard. Inscribed SAVNDERS and WOLFE with BRITANNIA at top. **Reverse:** Victory holding palm branch and crowning trophy with laurel wreath, at the foot of trophy is bound captive seated. Legend: QVEBEC • TAKEN • MDCCLIX in exergue: SOC•P•A•C. Silver, diameter 40 mm.

Engraved by Thomas Pingo (1692-1776), Italian-born medallist and die engraver. He worked for the Royal Mint in London and was one of the founding members of the Royal Academy in 1768. Information from the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England. An image of such a medal can be seen at the museum Website: <http://www.nmm.ac.uk/collections/explore/object.cfm?ID=MEC1305>

### **History**

By the 1750s, the French and the British were at war again (Seven Years' War 1756-1763). Britain's General Wolfe was ordered to take Quebec. In September 1759, Wolfe and about 4,500 men climbed from the river to the Heights of Abraham. Montcalm inexplicably attacked in columns of three. This meant that his soldiers could only fire at an angle and therefore at the edges of the British lines. The British centre fired at random and broke the French assault. The irony was that both generals were killed. At the end of the Seven Years' War the Treaty of Paris gave Canada to Britain.

### **James Wolfe 1727-1759**

Wolfe was born at Westerham, Kent. He joined the army in 1742 and, in June the following year, fought at Dettingen as an ensign during the war of Austrian Succession. In April 1746, Wolfe was at the uncompromising defeat of the Scots at Culloden. He arrived in Canada in 1758 as a colonel with a brigade under General Jeffrey Amherst (1717-1797), marking the precursor of Pitt's plan to take Canada from the French. The following year, by then a major general, Wolfe planned the

assault on Quebec and after his death became a hero. Wolfe was buried at Greenwich. Information extracted from BBC Website, London, England 2005.  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/history/empire/episodes/episode\\_28.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/history/empire/episodes/episode_28.shtml)

### Charles Saunders (1715 –1775)

Saunders was an admiral in the Royal Navy during the Seven Years' War and later First Lord of the Admiralty. He commanded the fleet, which brought James Wolfe to Quebec in 1759 and consolidated the dead general's victory after the Battle of the Plains of Abraham.

The research above started as I went through a group of very old and somewhat damaged books. One of them was a bound volume of *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly* 1876. On page 723 was a story of Quebec, Canada and General Wolfe who took the city in 1759 from the French. As usual the pages were illustrated with detailed engravings. One was a copy of "Death of Wolfe, from Benjamin West's painting."



In the lower right corner of the page was an engraving of a "Medal Commemorating the Capture of Quebec," reproduced at the beginning of this article.

The inscription *SOC•P•A•C* on the reverse side of the medal remains unidentified at this point.

*NI*



## Napoleon III Medal, Expedition to Mexico

### Fernando Laborde



**Mexico Military Medal Prize Award, Expedition to Mexico 1862-1865**

**Obverse:** Napoleon facing left with wreath around. Legend: NAPOLEON III EMPEREUR with BARRE beneath bust. **Reverse:** Inscription with wreath around. Legend around: ★ EXPEDITION DU MEXIQUE ★ 1862●1865, center inscription of five lines: CUMBRES / CERRO-BORREGO / SAN-LORENZO / PUEBLA / MEXICO. Silver, 30.5mm diameter (without loop) 14.2g mass, ribbon missing (image enlarged).

The French intervention in Mexico (January 1862 – March 1867) ended in defeat and in the execution of the French-backed emperor, Maximilian. Maximilian was the brother of the (Habsburg) Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph. More importantly, France saw her dominance on the continent of Europe eroded by Prussia's crushing victory over Austria in June – August 1866. Due to his Carbonari (revolutionary societies) past, Napoleon was unable to bring himself to ally with Austria, despite the obvious threat that a victorious Prussia would present to France.

With the imperial order of the 29th of August 1863 the French Emperor Napoleon III instituted a commemorative medal to honor those men of the armed forces who fought in Mexico. The medal displayed the projected period of the campaign 1862-1865, medals of the very first issue even showed the dates 1862-1863, but finally it took longer than planned and de facto the whole period from 1862 to 1867 was covered.

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## St. Meinrad & Our Lady of Einsiedeln

Bob Forrest NI #2382

St. Meinrad is not the most interesting of saints. A Benedictine monk at the abbey of Reichenau near Konstanz, in about 829 he sought his abbot's permission to become a hermit. Permission granted, he ended up, a few years later (about 840), at the place subsequently named Einsiedeln (it literally means "the Hermitage"), some 20 miles south-east of Zurich, in present-day Switzerland. Here he apparently lived quite happily in his cell in the forest until his murder by thieves in 861. Two details of his seclusion concern us here. First, he had with him a treasured image of the Madonna and Child (subsequently to become known as "Our Lady of Einsiedeln") and second, he befriended two crows who lived near his cell and who, legend has it, pecked at his murderers all the way back to their hideout in Zurich.

Following his murder, St. Meinrad's cell, with its image of the Virgin, became the scene of great popular devotion, and a community of copy-cat hermits eventually settled there resulting, in the 940's, in the founding of a Benedictine abbey.

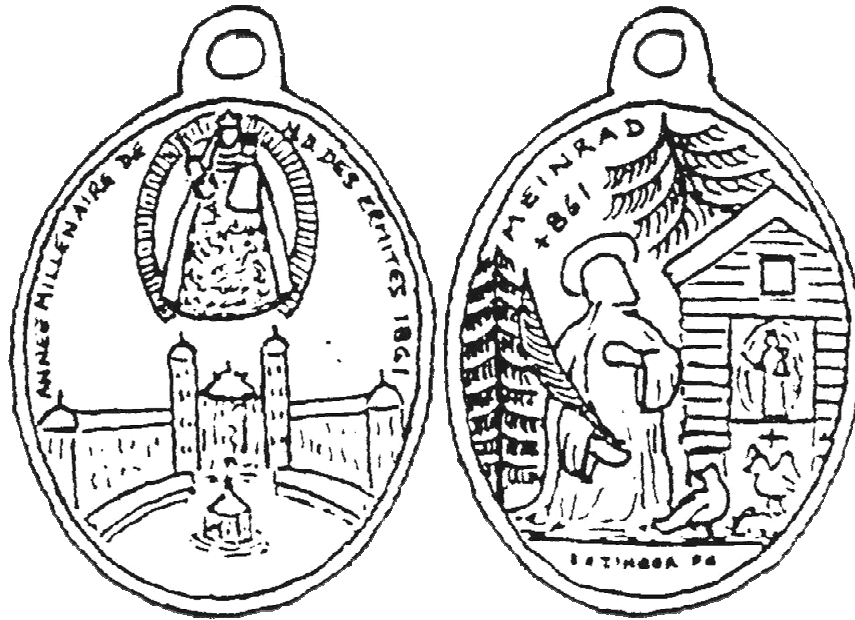


Figure 1

The wonderful bronze medal shown 1½ times actual size in Figure 1 depicts, on its reverse, St. Meinrad kneeling before his cell in the forest, the Madonna & Child enshrined in a niche in the background, and the two friendly crows in the foreground. He holds a palm of martyrdom in his right hand (though quite why his murder by thieves qualifies him as a martyr is unclear), his name and the date of his death appearing above his head. In the exergue is the engraver's name, BEZINGER, about whom I know nothing, I'm afraid.

The obverse shows the same image of the Virgin as depicted on the reverse, but here dressed in the rich robes which give many such images a curious conical appearance. She hovers protectively over the great Benedictine abbey of Einsiedeln, the accompanying legend reading ANNEE MILLENAIRE DE N.D. DES ERMITES

1861 (Millennial Year of Our Lady of the Hermits, 1861). This title of the Virgin, of course, is essentially a French equivalent of "Our Lady of Einsiedeln," since, as pointed out above, Einsiedeln does mean "Hermitage."

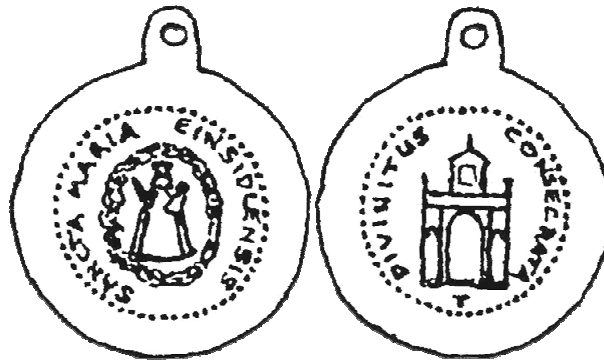


Figure 2

Another medal of Einsiedeln, in silver, is shown 1½ times actual size in Figure 2. The obverse shows the image of Our Lady of Einsiedeln much as depicted on the obverse of Figure 1, the accompanying legend reading SANCTA MARIA EINSIDLENSIS (- Holy Mary of Einsiedeln.) The reverse of the medal shows a church or chapel with the legend DIVINITUS CONSECRATA, and herein lies a story.

When the abbey church of Einsiedeln was built to enshrine St. Meinrad's original chapel, it was planned to consecrate it on September 14th 948, the ceremony to be performed by Conrad, Bishop of Constance. The good bishop spent the night before the ceremony praying in the chapel, and it was as he prayed that he had a vision in which Christ himself appeared and, assisted by various saints, performed the said rite of consecration. The following day, as the planned earthly consecration ceremony went ahead, a heavenly voice was heard by all present ordering them to halt the proceedings as the church had already been divinely consecrated (DIVINITUS CONSECRATA) the night before. The building on the medal is actually the original chapel of St. Meinrad as it is to be seen today, marble-clad and sitting neatly inside the abbey church, a building within a building.

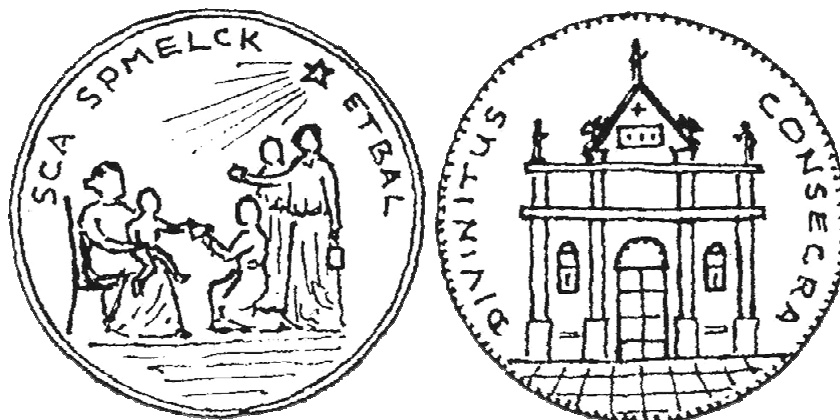


Figure 3

The bronze medal shown 1½ times actual size in Figure 3 would be difficult to

attribute if we didn't have the medal of Figure 2 to guide us, for there is nothing directly to indicate its place of origin. Indeed, at first I thought it might relate to some church or chapel related to the Three Kings, for as can be seen, its obverse features them in a typical Nativity scene. (The accompanying legend - SCA SPMEELCK ETBAL - is at first rather puzzling. However, the puzzle is easily resolved by a slight re-grouping of the letters, thus: S. CASP MELCK ET BAL — clearly a reference to the Three Kings/Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar). The reverse of the medal clearly links it to Einsiedeln, so I would guess that it is probably some sort of "Christmas special" issue associated with the Abbey.

### Sources.

For the story of St. Meinrad and Einsiedeln, see H.M.Gillett, *Famous Shrines of Our Lady* (1952), vol.1, p.64-69 and Joan Carroll Cruz, *Miraculous Images of Our Lady* (1993), p.426-431. For photos of the abbey church and St. Meinrad's chapel inside it, see the web-site: <http://www.geocities.com/MadisonAvenue/1037/Europe.htm>. For the Three Kings, see *Ni Bulletin*, December 1999, p.286-7.



## **FYI: Items Associated with the Coinage of Charles I of England**

### **Howard Ford NI #LM90**

ABERYSTWYTH—Charles I's first provincial mint, established in Wales in 1638  
 BRIOT'S COINAGE—Machine-struck coins of superior quality struck by Nicholas Briot, who remained loyal to Charles during the Civil War  
 CARLISLE SIEGE ISSUES—Coins of 1 and 3 Shillings struck from melted dinner plates in late 1644 and early 1645 at Carlisle on the English-Scottish border  
 MALTRAVERS FARTHING—Farthings struck briefly by Lord Maltravers under a license from Charles in 1631  
 OBSIDONAL CURRENCY—coins struck under siege: for Charles I, the term refers to coins struck at Carlisle (see above), Colchester, Newark, Pontefract and Scarborough during the Civil War  
 OXFORD CROWN—very rare silver Crown dated 1644, showing the city of Oxford below the design of Charles on Horseback  
 RICHMOND FARTHING—farthings authorized by Charles to be struck under license to the Duchess of Richmond



### **Member Notice**

Viet Nam Wanted. 500 Dong Gold with Pagoda on reverse and national seal on obverse, issued for the 2000 Sydney Olympics in 2000 but without a date. It is a small coin and minted by the Mint of Finland and unlisted in any catalogs known to me. I would like to purchase it, to include any box and/or capsule, and any paperwork with it too. If you do not have this coin for sale or trade, I would like to know of each piece in a collection or dealers' stocks. Please contact me, Howard A. Daniel III, at HADANIEL3@MSN.COM or at P.O. Box 989, Deltaville, VA 23043-0989 USA.

*NI*